

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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- On 31 January 1953, a conference of Hungarian metallurgical plant managers convened in Budapest to discuss the lag in production during the past year as well as the serious production drop during January 1953. The conference was important enough to warrant the attendance of Minister President Mátyás Rákosi and Deputy Minister President Ernoe Geroc. Also in attendance was Deputy Minister President István Hidas, the only Deputy Minister President who was not previously a Minister.

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The assistant of Hidas, Ferenc Herczeg, formerly the president of the Communist trade counsel of Mavag, was also present. The president of the Planning Office, Zoltán Vas, was not present.²

- Two of the production figures given at the meeting were as follows:
 - The Martin furnaces of the Oza Steel Combine, were scheduled to produce 7,000 tons of steel in January 1953; only 6,700 tons were produced.
 - The Martin furnaces of the Mátyás Rákosi Works in Csepel were expected to deliver 6,000 tons of steel; they actually produced more than the plan.
- A large new cement factory, the Danube Cement Works, is being built near Vac and will deliver mainly to the Sztalin Works at Sztalinváros (Dunapentele). The quarry is located on Nagyszáll hill, from there, a railroad train transports limestone both to the cement factory and to the Sztalinváros harbor. When the factory is completed, both the finished cement and the scorificated limestone will be delivered to Sztalinváros. The factory equipment was produced in Hungary with the exception of kilns and the cable railway, which came from East Germany.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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4. At the end of November 1952, eight Hungarian barges, loaded with hundreds of crates of precision instruments, arrived in Bratislava harbor. The crates were transferred into railroad freight cars bound for Moscow via Cerna (Cierna nad Tisou). Allegedly, the deliveries were made under the Hungarian reparations debt to Czechoslovakia.

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2. Comment: This does not mean that Vas has disappeared from the scene; two days previously he had talked at the funeral ceremony of Hungarian author Andor Gabor. But it should be noted that he has recently attended public events rather than important economic conferences.

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